

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Final Office Action mailed on June 6, 2007. Applicants respectfully traverse (and do not concede) all objections, rejections, adverse statements, and adverse assertions made by the Examiner. With this amendment, claims 2 and 15 are amended. No new matter is added. Please cancel claims 1, 3-7, 9-14, 16-20, and 22-38 without prejudice. Claims 2 and 15 remain pending.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 9, 11, 12, 29-32, 33, 34 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Termin et al. in U.S. Patent No. 5,221,261. Without conceding the merits of the rejection, please note that claims 1, 9, 11, 12, 29-32, 33, 34 and 37 are now cancelled without prejudice, rendering the rejection moot. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these claims or claims of a similar scope in the future.

Claims 25-28 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Meyer et al. in U.S. Patent No. 7,186,237. Without conceding the merits of the rejection, please note that claims 25-28 and 34 are now cancelled without prejudice, rendering the rejection moot. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these claims or claims of a similar scope in the future.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 22-24, 29-32, 35, 36 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyer et al. in view of Termin et al. Without conceding the merits of the rejection, please note that claims 1, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 22-24, 29-32, 35, 36 and 38 are now cancelled without prejudice, rendering the rejection moot. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these claims or claims of a similar scope in the future.

Claims 2, 3, 4, 7, 15, 16 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyer et al. or Termin et al. in view of Bradshaw in U.S. Patent No. 6,450,988. Regarding claims 3, 4, 7, 16 and 20, without conceding the merits of the rejection, please note that these claims are now cancelled without prejudice, rendering the rejection moot. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these claims or claims of a similar scope in the future.

Regarding claims 2 and 15, MPEP §2143 states that in order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested. Claim 2 is amended into independent form and it recites that the one or more gripping surfaces are defined by one or more bumps disposed on the body portion (of the traction member). Claim 15, which is also amended into independent form, similarly recites that the gripping region is defined by one or more bumps disposed on the traction member. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited art fails to teach or suggest all the claim limitations of claims 2 and 15.

The Examiner apparently admitted that neither Meyer et al. nor Termin et al. disclose the features recited in claims 2 and 15. However, the Examiner indicated that “Bradshaw discloses a balloon catheter, wherein the balloon comprises a region of helical lobes 26 with protruding knobs 30 that engage the vessel wall to prevent the balloon from becoming dislodged from the site within the vessel”. Even if what the Examiner stated is taken to be true, this still does not teach or suggest the claimed invention. For example, Bradshaw only teaches or suggests knobs 30 that can be disposed directly on a helical balloon, not on a traction member positioned exterior the balloon. Thus, applying the teaching of Bradshaw to Meyer et al. and/or Termin et al. would result in knobs 30 being disposed on the balloons of Meyer et al. and/or Termin et al. The resultant combination would not teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 2 or 15. For example, combining the cited art would not teach or suggest one or more bumps disposed on the body portion (of the traction member) as recited by claim 2 or one or more bumps disposed on the traction member as recited by claim 15.

Based on the forgoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not properly established a *prima facie* case of obviousness for claims 2 and 15. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 2 and 15 should be withdrawn in due course.

Claims 4, 5, 6, 17, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyer et al. or Termin et al. in view of Grayzel et al. in U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. US 2002/0010489. Without conceding the merits of the rejection, please note that claims 4, 5, 6, 17, 18 and 19 are now cancelled without prejudice, rendering the rejection moot. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these claims or claims of a similar scope in the future.

Conclusion

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

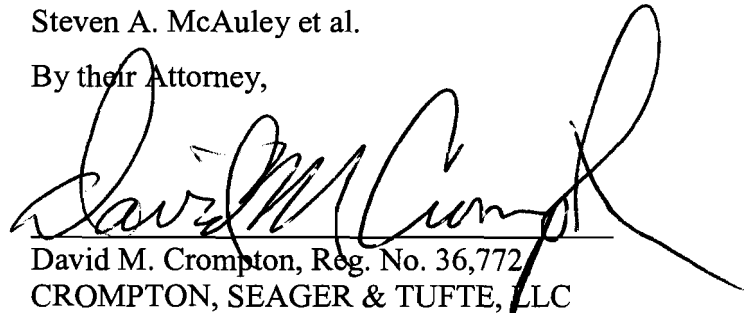
Respectfully submitted,

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By their Attorney,

Date: _____

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